

Hi Fans,

Richard sends his THANKS to you for all the lovely gifts and cards you sent him. They were all very unique, especially the hand-made cards and items that took so much time and effort.

It was bound to happen sometime and it did in Las Vegas. The opening act was finished, the M.C. announced "Ladies & Gentlemen -- THE CARPENTERS", the drum roll commenced and there stood Richard on stage - WITHOUT Karen!!! She was still in her dressing room unaware that it was curtain time. There were no monitors and no one had bothered to warn her. So it was an astronautical Karen who flew on stage that night in time to sing the opening song which hilariously enough was "HELP". Three days before the Vegas closing they found that each morning they had to strip the stage of all instruments and equipment so Nancy Sinatra could rehearse her act which would follow their closing. Then it had to be set up again by six in the evening in time for their dinner show. It took some doing but that's show biz. During the Tire Convention held in Vegas while K & R were there, they partied in Richard's dressing room with Andretti, Parnelli Jones, Unser, and other great race car drivers. Andretti and Richard had quite a Ferrari discussion and Skiles & Henderson entertained with a special hilarious car skit. Other VIPs that dropped in to visit during their Vegas run were Astronaut Buzz Aldrin, the Air Force Thunderbird pilots, Gerry Vail, Chill Wills, & Julie Nixon Eisenhower. Julie's visit was at their Vegas residence rather than the Riviera. Though Secret Service men were in attendance during her Vegas trip, she entered Carpenter's house alone and they all enjoyed a pleasant visit. Julie presented K & R a beautiful book which she had edited -- all about the Nixon family. Moments before Julie's arrival Karen discovered a wrinkle in the ruffle of the dress she was wearing and since there was no time to change, an ironing board was quickly set up and Maria did a speedy but nifty press job while the dress remained on Karen! K & R visited Nellis Air Force Base, meeting again, their friends the Thunderbird Pilots and were privileged to climb aboard one of the planes while Mr. Carpenter took movies of the action. For kicks a time or two the group took off for Circus Circus, a circus atmosphere night club there, and rode the bumper cars. Arriving at a time when there were no other patrons, the attendant turned the power up full blast so they'd experience more bumps and they all had a hilarious time.

Leaving Las Vegas, the group flew to Salt Lake City for a gig at the Special Events Center. Though their equipment truck was late in arriving, they all pitched in to get the stage set up in time for the evening performance. Then to their dismay, the heavy rain held up traffic and the show had to be detained for 45 minutes. In her dressing room there, Karen discovered she had no hot water so she had to use Richard's shower. The dressing rooms were in sight of the audience & K wondered how many people in the audience saw her as she dashed in her robe, towel on head, back to her own dressing room to dress. At Boise State College, there were locker rooms only for dressing, so K was given the use of a coaches office that conveniently sported a lovely shower. However, it hadn't been used in a good long time, so Maria had to clean it so they could set their baggage down. After the gig they went to the only 24 hour restaurant for dinner but when they arrived it seemed like the entire Boise State audience had the same idea. The place was so crowded there was no place for the group so they didn't get dinner until 3:00 o'clock that next morning. In Seattle's Center Arena, the show's promoter had delectable snacks sent to the arena for them. This included a huge fruit bowl which overflowed with all available fresh fruits including pomegranates, the juicy red fruit with a jillion seeds. Karen, Maria & Danny attacked these with gusto while the rest of the group stuck with the more familiar fruit. Curt Mercer, the light man celebrated a birthday that day, so they all trouped to Victor 6/10 for dinner - a hearty Italian one. Dressing rooms in Spokane, though a bit small, were lovely with sparkling clean showers and lighted mirrors. Blackula, Karen's big black wardrobe trunk had to be left in the hall for lack of dressing room space but made friends with the theater ironing board which was set up nearby for costume pressing. After the gig the hungry group returned to their hotel for dinner to find to their dismay, the kitchen was closed. Trudging to the bar, they located the chef who took pity on them and returned to the kitchen to prepare a most delicious steak dinner.

It was a jubilant group that picked up a 90 passenger Electra Jet to fly to Portland, Oregon. They anticipated 2 days off after the Portland gig! K lost a bracelet there in a Chinese restaurant and didn't miss it until she returned to her hotel. They searched her room, the stage they'd performed on, & the limo they'd rode in but to no avail. Then they finally went back to the restaurant where it still lay on the seat they had sat on. She figured it had rolled off her slender arm when she removed her coat. K & R flew home for their 2 days off for some of mom's good cooking and to attend an A & M dinner. We'll leave you here and take you to Omaha when we continue this tour next month. In the meantime, a reminder we still have blue and red T Shirts available, as well as Boat Posters, Chair Posters, the new Song For You Posters, Wallet pics, Pennants, Key Chains and Pens.

Continued next month, Ev